



Ramadan and Muslims in America



Ramadan is observed in the ninth month of the year in the Islamic Calendar. Many of the world's 1.5 billion Muslims will observe the month of Ramadan in different ways, blending their own cultural customs with Islamic traditions of prayer and fasting. In the United States alone, Muslims come from more than 80 countries and represent a mosaic of ethnic, linguistic, ideological, social and economic groups. Although the principal teachings of Ramadan remain consistent, the fusion between religious tradition and diverse cultures embodies the interconnectivity and diffusion of a modern, globalized world.

Related Resources

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Foreign Policy & International Relations

Obama's Foreign Policy Performance. Interview with Richard N. Haass, president, Council on Foreign Relations. July 14, 2010.

The Obama administration's recent settling of the Russian spy case, along with its dealings with Russia on Iran and the START treaty, reflect a deft handling of Washington's affairs with Moscow, says CFR President Richard Haass, who sees a comparably adroit management of relations with China.

Innovation and the Visible Hand: China, Indigenous, and the Role of Government Procurement by Nathaniel Ahrens. *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*. July 7, 2010.

Indigenous innovation has become the greatest immediate source of economic friction between the United States and China. Yet despite concerns over protectionism, the global trend toward "homegrown" innovation is a healthy, positive development.

Priorities and Results in U.S. Foreign Affairs. *U.S. Department of State*. August 03, 2010.

Obama and the World: A Promise at Risk by Strobe Talbott. *Brookings*. July 10, 2010.

Brookings President Strobe Talbott delivered the annual Ditchley Foundation Lecture, held at the Ditchley Foundation in the United Kingdom. The title of record—which is in your program and on the invitation—is "Obama and the World." On some reflection, I'm going to suggest a few amendments to that. For example, the title perhaps might more properly be "Obama, America, and the World."

Engaging Foreign Audiences: Assessment of Public Diplomacy Platforms Could Help Improve State Department Plans to Expand Engagement. *GAO report*. July 2010.

Overpowered? Questioning the Wisdom of American Restraint by Michael Mandelbaum. *Foreign Affairs*. May/June 2010.

In international relations, power is the equivalent of money -- highly desired, actively sought, and eagerly used. The theme of three new books about power and U.S. foreign policy is that as with money, so with power: a great deal of it does not necessarily bring success.

The Lengthening List of Iran Sanctions by Greg Bruno. *Council on Foreign Relations*. July 8, 2010.

Decades of economic and diplomatic sanctions have failed to substantively alter the actions of the Iranian regime, especially regarding its nuclear program. But experts say they remain an important tool to isolate and pressure Iran.

A Government for Baghdad by Kenneth M. Pollack. *Brookings*. July 27, 2010.

Given the fragility of Iraq's nascent democracy, and the importance of this particular transition—which will set precedents for decades to come—the United States and the Iraqis have good reason to be patient. If we want a government bad, we can get one bad, but that won't serve anyone's interests.

What Next for the Start-Up Nation? by Daniel Senor and Saul Singer. *Council on Foreign Relations*. Summer 2010.

Some warn that Israel is facing its toughest constellation of threats ever. Yet we believe that Israel is poised to play a central role in world affairs, not as a flashpoint for conflict but as a global innovation leader.

U.S.-U.K.: A Difficult Duet in Afghanistan. Interview with Charles A. Kupchan. *Council on Foreign Relations*. July 21, 2010.

Time to Talk to the Taliban? By Matt Waldman. *Council on Foreign Relations*. July 27, 2010.

Despite a spiral of violence in Afghanistan, the United States must reorient its security-first strategy and consider immediate talks with Taliban and other militant fighters, says independent analyst Matt Waldman.

U.S.-Japan Relations for the 21st Century. Statement by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Kurt M. Campbell before the U.S. House Committee on Armed Services, July 27, 2010. **Other statements**

U.S. Secretary of State Clinton signs the Third Protocol of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia. *U.S. Dept of State.* July 26, 2010.

Secretary Clinton's Video Message to ASEAN Youth. July 22, 2010.

Statement at the DMZ. Remarks by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. July 21, 2010.

Gathering Storm: America and China in 2020. By Ian Bremmer. *World Affairs.* July-August 2010.

There is still considerable mutual dependence in U.S.-Chinese relations, grounded mainly in the complex commercial ties of the two nations. But there are also risks that are more dangerous for Washington than anything produced by the long U.S.-Soviet stalemate. The financial crisis of the past twenty months has produced significant aftershocks in China. And in the coming decade, economic developments inside China will have profound implications for America's financial well-being—and, therefore, its security.

Google Stays in China. And Baidu Keeps on Winning; The Chinese Internet giant has increased its share of the search business to 64 percent by Bruce Einhorn. *Business Week.* July 15, 2010.

Chinese Nongovernmental Organizations: Politics by Other Means? By Amy E. Gadsden. *American Enterprise Institute.* July 2010.

Nongovernmental organizations are growing in number and finding ways to survive in China, even though the country's political limits artificially restrict their growth, as they take up political issues but are not yet political actors, according to the author.

Defense & Security

Stopping Proliferation Before it Starts by Gregory L. Schulte. *Foreign Affairs.* July/August 2010.

It is probably too late to convince North Korea and Iran to dismantle their nuclear programs. Rather than fixating on the proliferation they are unable to prevent, concerned countries should pay more attention to preventing proliferation to states that have not yet decided to build nuclear weapons.

Smaller Dragon Takes Global Strides: the Lure of Trade, more than Military Battering, Transformed Vietnam by Jean-Pierre Lehmann. *YaleGlobal.* July 8, 2010.

As the Soviet Union crumbled, Vietnam set out to reform its economy, explains the author, restoring diplomatic ties with China in 1991 and the U.S. in 1995 before joining the World Trade Organization in 2007. Globalization, trade and openness transformed Vietnam into a global economic force.

Measuring the Effectiveness of Border Security Between Ports-of-Entry by Henry H. Willis et al. *RAND Corporation.* July 8, 2010.

Focusing on three missions -- illegal drug control, counterterrorism, and illegal migration -- this report recommends ways to measure performance of U.S. border-security efforts in terms of interdiction, deterrence, and exploiting networked intelligence.

Statement of U.S. National Security Advisor James Jones on Wikileaks, July 25, 2010. See also "Wikileaks: The Revelations That Aren't", by Daniel Markey. *Council on Foreign Relations.* July 26, 2010.

U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano launches "Blue Campaign" to combat human trafficking. News release, *U.S. Dept of Homeland Security.* July 22, 2010. **Fact Sheet**

Project Bioshield: Authorities, Appropriations, Acquisitions, and Issues for Congress by Frank Gottron. *Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress.* July 7, 2010.

Potential chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) terrorism agents lack available medical countermeasures. In 2003, President Bush proposed Project BioShield to address this need. The Project BioShield Act became law in 2004. Congress continues to address project-related policy issues; whether to continue diverting funding to other purposes; whether to change the countermeasure development and acquisition process; how to replace stockpiled countermeasures as they expire; and whether to alter federal efforts to encourage the development of broad-spectrum countermeasures.

The New Rules of War by John Arquilla. *Foreign Policy.* March/April 2010.

To Walk the Earth in Safety. The United States' Commitment to Humanitarian Mine Action and Conventional Weapons Destruction. *U.S. Department of State*. August 03, 2010.

The U.S. works with other nations to clean up the debris of war, combat trafficking in small arms and light weapons, and improve the security and management of munitions stockpiles. Explosions at munitions storage facilities have become a growing problem. The U.S. is leading an international effort to address this "dangerous depots" problem.

Energy & Environment

Climate Change: Providing Assistance for Vulnerable Countries. Hearing before a subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs, July 27, 2010. **Transcripts**

Can the Chevy Volt Recharge General Motors by Brian Dumaine. *Time Magazine*. July 14, 2010.

The documentary *Who Killed the Electric Car?* accused General Motors of conspiring with the oil industry and politicians to shelve its EV1 in the 1990s. How things have changed. These battery-powered vehicles will revolutionize not only the auto industry but also the way Americans live and drive.

Confronting the Crisis of International Climate Policy: Rethinking the Framework for Cutting Emissions by Ferguson Green et al. *Lowy Institute for International Policy*. July 7, 2010.

Copenhagen failed to produce an agreement on climate change commensurate with the scale of the problem. Progress on a new agreement is slow, with fundamental disagreements remaining on nearly every aspect of the agenda. Weightier commitments by the major emitters are necessary, but calls for 'greater ambition' ignore the structural problems embedded in the institutions, processes and policy models of the UN climate regime.

Media Interest in Oil Spill Flagging by Mark Jurkowitz. *Project for Excellence in Journalism*. July 2010.

New Killer: Climate Change Threatens Homes and Livelihoods by Sasha Chavkin. *YaleGlobal*. July 22, 2010.

Changes in weather patterns and the landscape have become more abrupt and noticeable this century. Deserts expand, seas rise, rains pound, etching away land, jobs and homes. Hardest hit are the poorest nations, and families forced to move are left to their own devices. The author offers proposals for recourse while examining the hardships endured by one family from Nigeria.

Gloom Awaits U.S. Climate Diplomacy. Brief analysis by Michael A. Levi. *Council on Foreign Relations*. July 23, 2010.

Ocean Acidification: a National Strategy to Meet the Challenges of a Changing Ocean. *National Research Council*. July 2010.

The ocean has absorbed a significant portion of human-made carbon dioxide emissions. This benefits society by moderating the rate of climate change, but causes unprecedented changes to ocean chemistry. Carbon dioxide decreases the pH of the water and leads to ocean acidification. Long term consequences of ocean acidification are not known, but are expected to result in changes to many ecosystems and the services they provide to society. The report explores gaps in understanding, and identifies key findings.

Promoting a Clean Energy Economy. Hearing before the Joint Economic Committee, U.S. Congress. July 27, 2010.

The Importance of Research and Development for U.S. Competitiveness and a Clean Energy Future by Michael Greenstone. *Brookings Institution*. July 27, 2010.

In testimony before the Joint Economic Committee, Michael Greenstone discussed the need for expanded energy R&D investments to help combat our reliance on fossil fuels and promote our country's future competitiveness in the global economy.

Can High-Speed Trains Get on Track by Michael Grunwald. *Time Magazine*. July 16, 2010.

Agriculture & Food Security

Food Security Assessment, 2010-20 by Shahla Shapouri et al. *U.S. Department of Agriculture*. July 8, 2010.

Food security in 70 developing countries is estimated to have improved between 2009 and 2010, in part due to economic recovery in many countries. The number of food-insecure people in the developing countries analyzed by ERS researchers is estimated to decrease about 5% from 2009 to 882 million in 2010. Food-insecure people are defined as those consuming less than the nutritional target of 2,100 calories per day per person.

The Great Hunger Lottery: how Banking Speculation Causes Food Crises by Tim Jones. *World Development Movement*. July 2010.

The report compiles evidence establishing the role of food commodity derivatives in destabilising and driving up food prices around the world. This in turn, has led to food prices becoming unaffordable for low-income families around the world, particularly in developing countries reliant on imports.

America's Diverse Family Farms 2010 Edition. *U.S. Department of Agriculture*. July 2010.

American farms vary widely in size and other characteristics, but farming is still an industry of family businesses. 98% of farms are family farms, and they account for 82% of farm production. Small family farms make up most of the U.S. farm count and hold the majority of farm assets, but they produce a modest share of U.S. farm output. In contrast, large-scale family farms and nonfamily farms—only 12% of farms—account for 84% of farm. Small farms are less profitable, on average, and the households operating them tend to rely on off-farm income for their livelihood. Because small-farm households receive most of their income from off-farm work, general economic policies, such as tax policy or economic development policy, can be as important to them as traditional farm policy.

Economy, Business, Finance & Trade

The Year in Trade 2009: Operation of the Trade Agreements Program. Report of the U.S. International Trade Commission. July 2010.

Remarks by President Obama on the economy. July 23, 2010.

Recent Trends in U.S. Services Trade: 2010 Annual Report. U.S. International Trade Commission. June 2010. **News Release**.

Global Brands Contend with Appreciation for the Local by Bryant Simon. *YaleGlobal*. July 6, 2010.

Simon concludes that the local and global have many strange, inextricable connections as two never-ending quests proceed: Businesses attempt to attract customers and expand, while consumers hunt for new and exceptional products, often in the traditional shops of some other land.

The Child Tax Credit After ARRA: How Would Expiration Affect Metropolitan Families? By Elizabeth Kneebone. *Brookings Institution*. July 8, 2010.

The largest provision in tax code that benefits working families with children is the Child Tax Credit (CTC). Eligible families can claim a credit up to \$1,000 for each child under 17. The CTC is the largest of any federal cash assistance program for children. It provides a work incentive for lower-income families, it also acts as the mechanism to deliver financial support to families raising children. Letting the earnings threshold revert to pre-ARRA levels would exclude a significant number of lower-income families.

Obama Administration Announces Conference on Housing Finance Reform. U.S. Dept of the Treasury, July 27, 2010. (the conference will be held on August 17, 2010). **Blog post** by U.S. Under Secretary of the Treasury Jeffrey A. Goldstein

Investing Across Borders: Indicators of Foreign Direct Investment Regulation. An initiative of the World Bank. **News Release**.

Who's Afraid of Steve Jobs? by Devin Leonard. *Business Week*. July 22, 2010.

The U.S. Policy Response to the Global Financial Crisis. Speech by U.S. Under Secretary of the Treasury for International Affairs Lael Brainard, at the Peterson Institute for International Economics. July 26, 2010.

Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Spells of Unemployment, 2004-2007. *Census Bureau.* July 2010.

Monetary Policy and the State of the Economy. Hearing before the U.S. House Committee on Financial Services. July 22, 2010.

Transshipment and Diversion: Are U.S. Trading Partners Doing Enough to Prevent the Spread of Dangerous Technologies? Hearing before a subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs. July 22, 2010. **Transcripts.**

Government Debt and Economic Growth by John Irons and Josh Bivens. *Economic Policy Institute.* July 26, 2010.

The authors show that there is no solid evidence to support a popular claim that high levels of debt cause slower economic growth.

Obama's Economic Dilemma: To Spend or Not to Spend by Michael Crowley. *Time Magazine.* July 17, 2010.

Imagine the desktop of White House economic adviser Larry Summers. There he sits, data piling up around him, presenting a confounding picture. Half of his inbox features good news: Manufacturing is up. The private sector has added jobs for six months. Inflation is almost nonexistent. Even Wall Street is hiring again in anticipation of a coming recovery.

How a New Jobless Era Will Transform America by Don Peck. *The Atlantic.* March 2010.

The Pragmatic Rebels by Maureen Tkacik. *Business Week.* July 02, 2010.

Lost Income, Lost Friends – and Loss of Self-Respect: the Impact of Long-Term Unemployment by Paul Taylor et al. *Pew Research Center.* July 22, 2010.

The survey finds the long-term unemployed are more likely than the short-term unemployed not only to have lost income, but also to have lost contact with close friends, suffered strains in family relations and lost self-respect and confidence in their long-term career prospects.

Health

Nurses in Advanced Roles: a Description and Evaluation of Experiences in 12 Developed Countries by Marie-Laure Delamaille and Gaetan Lafortunes. *OECD.* July 12, 2010.

Many countries are seeking to improve health care delivery by reviewing the roles of health professionals, including nurses. The paper reviews the development of advanced practice nurses in 12 countries (including Australia, Canada, France, Japan, United Kingdom and U.S.), with a particular focus on their roles in primary care. It also reviews the evaluations of impacts on patient care and cost.

A Review of Disaster Medical Preparedness. Hearing before a subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. July 22, 2010.

Education

Classrooms for Security: Harnessing Academia to Keep America Safe by James Jay Carafano et al. *Heritage Foundation.* July 7, 2010.

More and more academic institutions are offering classes and degrees in issues related to homeland security. Partnerships between institutions of higher learning and the Department of Homeland Security are a crucial part of developing future homeland security leaders.

The Economic Benefits of Reducing the Dropout Rate Among Students of Color in the Nation's Largest Metropolitan Areas. *Alliance for Excellent Education*. July 7, 2010.

Few people realize the impact that high school dropouts have on a community's economic, social, and civic health. Indeed, everyone, from car dealers and realtors to bank managers and local business owners, benefits when more students graduate from high school.

Principal Attrition and Mobility: Results from the 2008-09 Principal Follow-up Survey. *National Center on Education Statistics*. Web posted July 7, 2010.

The 2008-09 Principal Follow-up Survey was administered in order to provide attrition rates for principals in K-12 public, private, and Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools. The goal was to assess how many principals in the 2007-08 school year still worked as a principal in the same school in 2008-09, how many had moved to become a principal in another school, and how many had left the principalship.

Education and the internet/social networking

Rethinking Education in the Age of Technology by Allan Collins and Richard Halverson. *Redefining Teacher Education for Digital Age Learners Invitational Summit Paper*. December 6-8, 2009.

People are taking their education out of school into homes, libraries, Internet cafés, and workplaces, where they can decide what they want to learn, when they want to learn, and how they want to learn. The authors discuss how new technologies are challenging our traditional model of education.

Towards Best Practices in Online Learning and Teaching in Higher Education by Jared Keengwe and Terry T. Kidd. *MERLOT Journal of Online Learning and Teaching*. June 2010.

The authors provide a brief historical perspective of online education and describe the unique aspects of online teaching and learning. The authors also examine the barriers to online teaching, the new faculty roles in online learning environments, and some implications for online learning and teaching.

Challenges of Maintaining Academic Integrity in an Age of Collaboration, Sharing and Social Networking by Kirsti A. Dyer. *15th Annual TCC Worldwide Online Conference 2010 Proceedings*. April 20-22, 2010.

The author, an adjunct instructor at Madonna University, examines the challenges faculty and academic institutions are facing in maintaining academic integrity in the digital age, particularly the misuse of technology in the classroom.

Text Messaging and Implications for its Use in Education by Dean K. Tomita. *14th Annual TCC Worldwide Online Conference 2009 Proceedings*. 2009.

Do tools like Twitter affect a student's ability to read and write? Is there a place for microblogging technology in education? The author explores text-messaging and its implications for education.

How the Internet is Changing Self-Directed Learning by Roger Hiemstra. *Paper Presented at the Annual Regional Conference*. April 20-21, 2009.

The author, an adjunct instructor at the Center for Distance Learning at Empire State College, discusses the impacts of growth in Internet usage and broadband access on the way people use information for their own education and learning.

Cheating in the Digital Age: Do Students Cheat More in Online Courses? By George Watson and James Sottile. *Online Journal of Distance Learning Administration*. Spring 2010.

With the assistance of the Internet and related technologies, students today have many more ways to be academically dishonest than a generation ago. The authors examine student cheating behaviors and perceptions of whether online or traditional face-to-face classes experienced greater cheating behaviors.

Media, Internet & Communications

Mobile Access 2010 by Aaron Smith. *Pew Internet & American Life Project*. July 7, 2010.

Six in ten Americans go online wirelessly using a laptop or cell phone; African-Americans and 18-29 year olds lead the way in the use of cell phone data applications, but older adults are gaining ground.

Media, Race and Obama's First Year - A Study of African Americans in U.S. News Coverage. *Pew Research Center*. July 26, 2010

While most Americans disapprove of Barack Obama's handling of the economy, far more think his administration's policies would do more to improve economic conditions over the next few years. (Pew) Election 2010 – Poll numbers, predictions, etc.

Protecting Youths in an Online World. Hearing before a subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. July 15, 2010.

Covering Corruption: the Difficulties of Trying to Make a Difference by Rosemary Armo. *Center for Media Assistance and National Endowment for Democracy*. July 21, 2010.

The idea that a free press is linked to better, more honest government is accepted as a given, largely without direct evidence. Yet only recently have news organizations begun asking whether what they are doing is making any difference. The report examines the impact of reporting about corruption on the incidence of corruption, asking how media has an effect in bringing about reform and better governance.

Think Again: The Internet by Evgeny Morozov. *Foreign Policy*. May/June 2010.

The Customer Service Express Lane by Steven James Snyder. *Time Magazine*. July 26, 2010.

IN the past, if customers were unhappy with a business, they would ring the manager or send an angry letter. Then came the Internet and online comment forms. But that is starting to feel old school, at least among tech-savvy consumers who've learned that the quickest, easiest, surest way to have their complaint not only heard but also resolved is to broadcast it on Twitter.

Twitter Twitter Little Stars by Felix Gillette. *Business Week*. July 15, 2010.

As customers make or break brands online, companies rush to hire social media directors...and figure out what they do

Social Welfare

Scaling New Heights: How to Spot Small Successes in the Public Sector and Make Them Big by Geoff Mulgan and Jitin der Kohli. *Center for American Progress*. July 2010.

There are strong incentives to innovate in the private sector, but the United States' social sector has been largely unable to match that success.

Tough, Fair, and Practical: a Human Rights Framework for Immigration Reform in the United States. *Human Rights Watch*. July 8, 2010.

Americans from all political perspectives agree that US immigration laws need to be fixed. While some emphasize the need to be tough in enforcing immigration law, others emphasize the importance of fairness. Human rights law offers a framework embracing both of these policy goals, contends the report.

Unwanted Immigrants: America's Deportation Dilemma by Joseph Chamie. *Yale Global Online*. July 27, 2010.

Increased labor mobility has accompanied global population growth and ease of travel. The world has roughly 50 million illegal migrants, about one quarter of which live in the U.S. Nations widely oppose illegal immigration, but identifying, catching and then deporting violators present a huge challenge, explains Joseph Chamie, research director for the Center for Migration Studies.

Spotlight on Statistics: Travel. *Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Dept of Labor*. July 2010.

Targeting Girls in the Name of Tradition: Child Marriage. Remarks by Melanne Verveer, U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues. July 15, 2010.

Surveying for Dollars: the Role of the American Community Survey in the Geographic Distribution of Federal Funds by Andrew D. Reamer. *Brookings Institution*. July 26, 2010.

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a Census Bureau program that provides annually updated information on demographic, social, economic, and housing characteristics of U.S. households at every level of geography. The report's analysis of the distribution of federal funds on the basis of ACS-related data has significant implications for federal, state, and local stakeholders.

What is the Age of Reason? by Sumit Agarwal et al. *Center for Retirement Research at Boston College*. July 2010.

The brief documents the decline in cognitive function that occurs as individual's age; describing new evidence that middle-age adults make fewer financial mistakes than younger or older adults, possible policy responses to help older individuals manage their finances, and concluding that the best way forward is not yet clear, stressing that further research is needed on several key questions.

U.S. Government

Robert Byrd, Longest-Serving Senator, Dies by Massimo Calabresi. *Time*. Monday, Jun. 28, 2010.

State Fact Sheets: United States. *U.S. Department of Agriculture*. July 1, 2010.

State fact sheets provide information on population, income, education, employment, federal funds, organic agriculture, farm characteristics, farm financial indicators, top commodities, and exports, for each State in the United States. Links to county-level data are included when available.

Government for Sale: How Lobbyists Shaped the Financial Reform Bill by Steven Brill. *Time Magazine*. Jul. 01, 2010.

FEMA's Disaster Assistance Improvement Plan. *U.S. Dept of Homeland Security*. June 2010.

This report addresses the results of our audit of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's implementation of its Disaster Assistance Improvement Plan. It is based on interviews with employees and officials of relevant agencies and institutions, direct observations, and a review of applicable documents.

Arts & Culture

The Creativity Crisis by Po Bronson and Ashley Merryman. *Newsweek*. July 10, 2010.

For the first time, research shows that American creativity is declining. What went wrong—and how we can fix it.

Living Landmark by Cameron Shaw. *Art in America*. July 15, 2010.

Among the masonry and brickwork of New Orleans' tree-lined St. Charles Avenue, one building sticks out—red and green and pulsating. Its history is as curious as its appearance.

Wringing Art Out of the Rubble in Detroit by Melena Ryzik. *New York Times*, August 03, 2010.

The latest must-go event in this gritty, left-behind city — where D.J.'s flourish among ruins, trespassing in tumbledown buildings is part of a night out, and even garage rock is bare-bones — centers on soup.

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